

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application, with 1 and 11 being the independent claims. Claims 4, 6, 13, and 14 have been amended. No new matter has been entered by any amendments.

Based on the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Claim Objection

The Examiner objected to claim 6 for a misspelled word. Based on the amendment above to correct a typographical error, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 4, 13, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph, for an incorrect term in their preambles. Based on the amendments above to correct typographical errors, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

Rejections under Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

Claims 1-17 were rejected under obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-13 in U.S. Patent 6,424,190 and claims 1-17 of U.S. Patent No. 6,597,216.

Applicant is submitting a Terminal Disclaimer concurrently herewith to overcome the double patenting rejection. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

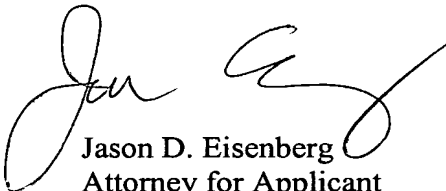
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

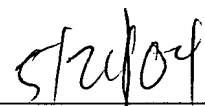
Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Jason D. Eisenberg
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 43,447

Date:


1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600
SKGF_DC1: 250452v1